

## ABSTRACT

A first aspect of the invention provides an object holding tool for holding objects {OB}, comprising a gripping unit which is operable between a contracted configuration and an expanded configuration to grip and release objects {OB} in transporting the same, wherein the gripping unit defines a first, outwardly-facing gripping surface {91} which, with the gripping unit in an expanded configuration, acts to grip an inner peripheral surface of an object {OB} of one kind, and a second, inwardly-facing gripping surface {93} which, with the gripping unit in a contracted configuration, acts to grip an outer peripheral surface of an object {OB} of another kind. A second aspect of the invention provides an object supporting unit for supporting an object {OB}, comprising a lower base member {105}, and an upper supporting body member {109} for supporting an object {OB}, wherein the body member {109} includes first and second concentric recesses {111, 113}, each configured to receive an object {OB} of one of two different kinds and having different depths such that upper ends of the two different kinds of object {OB} are at the same height, or at substantially the same height, when supported in the respective recesses {111, 113}.